

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 1, 18, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claims 1-23 remain pending.

In the outstanding Office action dated July 15, 2003, it was noted that typographical errors appeared on pages 8 and 9 of the specification. In response thereto, Applicants have amended pages 8 and 9 of the specification to correct the typographical errors. Additionally, in the outstanding Office action, it was indicated that reference item number 901 was not shown in Figure 8 of the present application and appropriate correction was required. However, as shown in the original drawing pages, item number 901 is indeed shown in Figure 8 to the right side of that Figure. Accordingly, it is believed that no correction is required to Figure 8.

In the July 2003 Office action, claims 1-5, 7-9, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin (5,575,817). Additionally, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin; claim 11 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Drasler et al. (6,451,051); claims 14 and 15 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Snow et al. (6,299,622); and claims 6 and 18-23 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Leonhardt et al. (5,713,917). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims as amended recite subject matter that is not taught by the cited art, either alone or in combination. In particular, the cited art does not teach a system or a method involving a loading capsule having a superior terminal end that is configured to mate with an inferior end of an introducer sheath. As such, it is respectfully submitted that each of pending claims 1-23 define patentable subject matter.

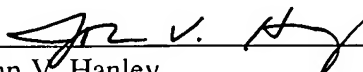
CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to respond to each and every rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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